

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An octomeric ~~octopeptide~~ peptide comprising a carboxy-terminal sequence of R1-Lys-X1-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 1) where X1 is Phe or DPhe and R1 is His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly.
2. (currently amended) An octomeric ~~octopeptide~~ peptide comprising His-X2~~DNaI~~-Arg-Trp-Gly-R2 (SEQ. ID NO. 2), where R2 is Lys-Pro-Val and R1 is DPhe or DNaI.
3. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising the sequence His-X2~~DNaI~~-Arg-Trp-Gly-Lys-X1-Val[[.]] (SEQ. ID NO. 3) wherein X1 is Phe or DPhe and X2 is DPhe or DNaI.
4. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising the sequence R1-Lys-X3-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 4) ~~sequence~~, wherein Val is the carboxy-terminal amino acid, R1 is His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly, and X3 is an amino acid having a non-polar functional group.
5. (currently amended) The octomeric peptide of claim 4 wherein the amino acid having a non-polar functional group is ~~may be~~ selected from the group consisting of Gly, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Met, Phe, and Trp.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising R1-Lys-Pro-X4 (SEQ. ID NO. 5) where X4 is an amino acid other than Val having a hydrophobic functional group or a non-polar functional group and R1 is His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly.
8. (currently amended) The octomeric peptide of claim 7 wherein the amino acid having a hydrophobic functional group is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ile, Met, and Pro.
9. (currently amended) The octomeric peptide of claim 7 wherein the amino acid having a non-polar functional group is selected from the group consisting of Gly, Ala, Pro, Leu, Ile, Met, Phe, and Trp.

10. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising R1-X5-Pro-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 6) wherein X5 is an amino acid with a non-polar hydrophobic functional group and R1 is His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly.

11. (currently amended) The octo[[r]]meric peptide of claim 10 wherein the amino acid having a non-polar hydrophobic functional group is selected from the group consisting of Ala, Leu, Ile, Met, and Pro.

12. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising R1-Lys-X6-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 7) wherein X6 is an amino acid having a ~~non-polar or~~ positively charged functional group and R1 is His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The octomeric peptide of claim 12 wherein the amino acid having a positively charged functional group is selected from the group consisting of Lys[[.]] and Arg.

15. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising R1-Lys-X7-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 8) wherein X7 is an amino acid having a negatively charged functional group and R1 is His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly.

16. (currently amended) The peptide of claim 15 wherein the amino acid having a negatively charged functional group is selected from the group consisting of Asp[[.]] and Glu.

17. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising an amino acid sequence His-X2DNaI-Arg-Trp-Gly-Lys-X7-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 9) wherein X2[[1]] is DPhe or DNaIPhe and X7 is an amino acid having a negatively charged functional group.

18. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising R1-Lys-X8-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 11) wherein X8 is an amino acid having an uncharged polar functional group and R1 is His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly.

19. (currently amended) The octomeric peptide of claim 19 wherein the amino acid having an uncharged polar functional group is selected from the group consisting of Asn, Gln, Ser, and Thr.

20. (currently amended) An octomeric peptide comprising the sequence His-~~X2~~~~DNaI~~-Arg-Trp-Gly-Lys-X8-Val (SEQ. ID NO. 12), wherein X2 is DPhe or DNaI and X8 is an amino acid having an uncharged polar functional group.